



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 1115

LCO No. 5427



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING WEDDING OFFICIANTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46b-22 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) Persons authorized to solemnize marriages in this state include
4 (1) all judges and retired judges, either elected or appointed, including
5 federal judges and judges of other states who may legally join persons
6 in marriage in their jurisdictions, (2) family support magistrates, state
7 referees and justices of the peace who are appointed in Connecticut,
8 [and] (3) all ordained or licensed members of the clergy, belonging to
9 this state or any other state, as long as they continue in the work of the
10 ministry, and (4) any person duly authorized by the Secretary of the
11 State to solemnize a particular marriage on a particular date in a
12 particular municipality, if such person (A) completes a written
13 application prescribed by the secretary that shall minimally set forth
14 the names of the persons to be married, the date and place of the
15 marriage and the name and address of the person who will be
16 solemnizing the marriage, and (B) remits to the secretary a twenty-five

17 dollar application fee. The Secretary of the State may, for good cause,
18 revoke the authority to solemnize a marriage conferred on a person
19 pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection at any time. The
20 authority to solemnize a marriage conferred pursuant to subdivision
21 (4) of this subsection shall expire upon the completion of such
22 solemnization. All marriages solemnized according to the forms and
23 usages of any religious denomination in this state, including marriages
24 witnessed by a duly constituted Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is, are
25 valid. All marriages attempted to be celebrated by any other person
26 are void.

27 (b) No public official legally authorized to issue marriage licenses
28 may join persons in marriage under authority of a license issued by
29 himself, or his assistant or deputy; nor may any such assistant or
30 deputy join persons in marriage under authority of a license issued by
31 such public official.

32 (c) Any person violating any provision of this section shall be fined
33 not more than fifty dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	46b-22

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a process that will allow more family and friends to serve as wedding officiants in this state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]